

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please enter the attached formal drawings Figs. 1-6 to replace the drawings as originally filed. A Letter to Draftsperson is also submitted herewith.

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated November 18, 2004. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 2-13 and 16-19 are under consideration in this application. Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9, 11, 15 and 18 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3, 8, 10, 12-14 and 16-17 are being amended, as set forth in the above marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to more particularly define and distinctly claim applicants' invention. New claims 19-23 are being added to recite other embodiments described in the specification.

Additional Amendments

All the amendments to the Title of the Invention and the claims are supported by the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formality Rejection

The drawings filed on July 24, 2003 were objected to and the Examiner has required new formal drawings to show the internal structure (i.e., cross-sectional views) of the housings, and the removability of the shafts, gears and bearings. Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, on the grounds that the "threaded locking ring" recited in claim 1 and "at least one straight extension" recited in claim 13 were not enabled by the specification. Claims 1-15 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in claiming the invention.

As indicated, the drawings, the specification and claims have been amended as required by the Examiner. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding informality rejection is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 4-10 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) on the grounds of being anticipated by US Patent No. 2,808,749 to Lampke (hereinafter "Lampke"). Claims 1-10, 12 and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,709,136 to Frenkel (hereinafter "Frenkel") in view of US Patent No. 1,352,354 to Church (hereinafter "Church") or US Patent No. 3,707,893 to Hofman (hereinafter "Hofman"). Claim 11 was rejected based upon the afore-mentioned references and further in view of US Patent No. 5,863,159 to Lasko (hereinafter "Lasko") or just Lampke in view of Lasko. Claim 13 was rejected based upon the afore-mentioned references and further in view of US Patent No. 1,385,214 to Klopper (hereinafter "Klopper") or just Lampke in view of Klopper. These rejections have been carefully considered, but are most respectfully traversed.

The extension 1 (for example, the embodiment depicted in Figs. 1-3) to be releasably engaged with a driving tool 2 (e.g., a manual or pneumatic ratchet, or an impact gun) and a driven tool 3, as now recited in claim 3, **comprising**: a first tubular housing 10 for accommodating a first beveled gear 12, a first shaft 11 going via the first beveled gear 12 engaged at one end thereof and a first shaft end 14 at the other end thereof for engaging with one of the driving tool 2 and the driven tool 3, and a first pair of supporting bearings 13 for rotatively supporting the first shaft 11 in the first housing 10; a second tubular housing 20 for accommodating a second beveled gear 22, a second shaft 21 going via the second beveled gear 22 and a second shaft end 24 at one end thereof for engaging with the other one of the driving tool 2 and the driven tool 3, and a second pair of supporting bearings 23 for rotatively supporting the second shaft 21 in the second housing 20; and an internal end thread 19 in one of the housings 10 and a threaded locking tubular piece 29 at a side of the other of the housings 20 being releasably engaged in a L-shape or T-shape. The first beveled gear 12 is positioned at another end of the first shaft 11 to rotatively engage at a non-zero and non-180-degree angle with the second beveled gear 22 positioned in the medium section of or at another end of the second shaft 21. In particular, the shafts 11, 21, the gears 12, 22, and the bearings 13, 23 are arranged in the first and second housings to be easily removable for replacement by unscrewing the threaded locking tubular piece 29 onto the internal end thread 19.

The invention as recited in claim 7 is directed to a plurality of the extensions recited in claim 3, wherein angles and pitches of the gears of each extension vary, depending on the non-zero and non-180-degree angle.

The invention as recited in claim 16 is directed to an extension **consisting of** all the elements recited in claim 3.

Applicants contend that none of the cited prior art references teaches or suggests such an extension “having the shafts 11, 21, the gears 12, 22, and the bearings 13, 23 are arranged to be easily removable for replacement by unscrewing the threaded locking tubular piece 29 onto the internal end thread 19” according to the invention.

As admitted by the Examiner, Lampke does not teach claim 3 such that it does not teach an extension “having the shafts 11, 21, the gears 12, 22, and the bearings 13, 23 arranged to be easily removable for replacement by unscrewing the threaded locking tubular piece 29 onto the internal end thread 19” according to the invention.

As to Frenkel, the bearings 32 (Figs. 3-4) and the bearing 26 (Fig.) are simply NOT easily removable for replacement, whether by un-snap-fitting the dent snap lock 46 (col. 3, lines 61) or by unscrewing any threaded locking tubular piece onto any internal end thread which are not even available in Frenkel. Frenkel’s socket member 20 has gear teeth 24 (Fig. 24; col. 3, lines 40-45) connected together with the bearing member 26 by heat treat expansion such that they are not separable or to be easily removable for replacement.

Church and Hofman share the same deficiencies as Frenkel. Other cited references simply fail to compensate for Frenkel’s deficiencies.

The invention applies the simple structure as claimed to achieve unexpected results or properties, in particular, having the shafts 11, 21, the gears 12, 22, and the bearings 13, 23 arranged to be easily removable for replacement by unscrewing the threaded locking tubular piece 29 onto the internal end thread 19. The presence of these unexpected properties is evidence of nonobviousness. MPEP§716.02(a).

“Presence of a property not possessed by the prior art is evidence of nonobviousness. In re Papesch, 315 F.2d 381, 137 USPQ 43 (CCPA 1963) (rejection of claims to compound structurally similar to the prior art compound was reversed because claimed compound unexpectedly possessed anti-inflammatory properties not possessed by the prior art compound); Ex parte Thumm, 132 USPQ 66 (Bd. App. 1961) (Appellant showed that the claimed range of ethylene diamine was effective for the purpose of producing " 'regenerated cellulose consisting substantially entirely of skin' " whereas the prior art warned "this compound has 'practically no effect.' ").

Although “[t]he submission of evidence that a new product possesses unexpected

properties does not necessarily require a conclusion that the claimed invention is nonobvious. In re Payne, 606 F.2d 303, 203 USPQ 245 (CCPA 1979). See the discussion of latent properties and additional advantages in MPEP § 2145”, the unexpected properties were unknown and non-inherent functions in view of the prior art references, since the prior art references do not inherently achieve the same results. In other words, these advantages would not flow naturally from following the teachings of the prior art references, since the prior art references fails to suggest applying such a simple structure as claimed by the invention.

Applicants further contend that the mere fact that one of skill in the art could rearrange the prior art structures to meet the terms of the claims is not by itself sufficient to support a finding of obviousness. The prior art must provide a motivation or reason for one skilled in the art to provide the unexpected properties, such as having the shafts 11, 21, the gears 12, 22, and the bearings 13, 23 arranged to be easily removable for replacement by unscrewing the threaded locking tubular piece 29 onto the internal end thread 19, without the benefit of appellant's specification, to make the necessary changes in the reference device. *Ex parte Chicago Rawhide Mfg. Co.*, 223 USPQ 351, 353 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1984). MPEP§2144.04 VI C.

Applicants contend that neither Lampke, Frenkel, nor their combinations with other references teaches or discloses each and every feature of the present invention as disclosed in independent claims 3, 7 and 16. As such, the present invention as now claimed is distinguishable and thereby allowable over the rejections raised in the Office Action. The withdrawal of the outstanding prior art rejections is in order, and is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

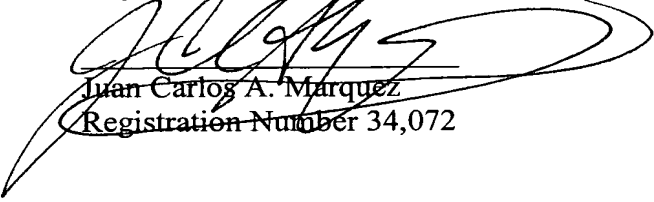
In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely, Applicants respectfully contend that the prior art references cannot anticipate the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance

of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

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